Leicester, Mass.tts Octo. 11. 1861.

Dear friend Webb;

I wrote you last on Monday 30th Sept., just before leaving home for Newyork - whither I went that eveg., arriving at 7 o'clk. on the morning of Oct. 1st. We (my younger son & I - for no persuasion cd. induce Edward's mother or sister to go on) remained in Newyork until Saturday (5th), daily expecting E.'s vessel to be ordered to Sea, but the order did not come, and we then returned home. We had 5 days of most charming weather in N.Y.k; indeed all Sept.r besides was mild & Summerlike in all this region, very much pleasanter than August. Edw.d (as I think I told you) has been appointed a Paymaster in the Navy for the War (with a prospect of its being a permanent office), and has been assigned to the first ready of the new gun-boats. She is called the "Unadilla", (from a Stream of that name in the State of Newyork,) is of about 600 tons burthen, has a Complement of 95 men, and carries what I should judge to be a very heavy armament for a vessel of her size. She is entirely ready for a cruise, but is delayed by other vessels not being yet ready. There will be quite a little fleet of them - whither bound we don't know, and probably few composing the expedition will know until they get to sea. It is not pleasant to be in this state of suspense and uncertainty, but it is unavoidable in the new and strange position into which, as a people, we find ourselves thrown.

I acknowledged the receipt (most tardy & blameable) of the Life of John Brown, and of the great pleasure I had derived from reading it, &c. C. Johnson offered some little excuse for Dr. Cheever, in so long detaining the book, viz. that, immediately upon landing in Newyork, he left for Mass.tts, leaving behind him the most of his luggage, & did not return to Newyork for some weeks. That to me, is a very insufficient explanation

It seems he brought 2 other copies – one for McKim, and one for Mrs. Brown, both of which had been forwarded at the same time with my own. I prepared a brief notice of it for the Standard of last week (Oct. 5th), and while writing another short one, for the Liberator of this week (to-day's paper) I rec'd. a note from McKim, fully corroborating my judgment of the book. He says, "I like it exceedingly. I don't hesitate to say that it equals my best expectations. It is a plain, straightforward, chastely-written, faithful narrative, embodying all the letters & papers necessary to its object, and making a most interesting and valuable volume." He adds, "R. D. W., not doubting that we would set our books in due course, must be wondering that we don't notice the fact. Please explain for me as well as yourself when you next write. I suppose that mine & yours were delayed by the same cause."

The parcel containing sheets of 164 copies of the Life (of which you have notified me) has not yet come to hand. I inquired at the office of Thayer & Warren (not Thayer & Eldredge, which was a bookselling firm in Boston, now bankrupt) two days since, & neither of their ships, sailing in September, had arrived – the "Havelock," which sailed Sept. 5., daily expected. You did not mention the vessel's name bringing the books. We look for it impatiently. –[The L'pool firm is Warren & Thayer.]

Wallcut tells me that Mrs. Jacobs's Liberator is paid for up to next January, and I advised him to let it go on until then, at least.

I am quite as much cramped for time today as I was when last writing, & , if I send this today, shall have but little time for replying to your remarks, in yrs. of Aug. 30., in defence of the course and attitude of England in regard to our Severe Contest with the Slaveholding Secession and War. Of course we know where the sympathy and good wishes of all true Abolitionists must be, in England as elsewhere; at any rate, where it will not be, viz. with the

South, in the mad and cruel war which they are waging, with characteristic method and spirit, in behalf of "the sum of all villainies". But the number of genuine, thorough, and intelligent Abolitionists in England, as you have always declared, is small, — and this is perhaps not very much to be wondered at; Such is the fact in this country, also. With regard to the great mass and bulk of the British nation, they are doubtless to be classed as anti-Slavery; their Soul would revolt at the ~~Suspi~~ charge, at the very Suspicion that they would lend their national Sanction and Support to "American Slavery — the vilest that ever saw the sun". And yet the anti-slavery of this large mass is rather historical and hereditary, than personal & vital, — arising from an established habit of thought & feeling rather than from a study of, and thorough acquaintance with, the Man-stealing and Man-destroying institution itself; So, at least, I understand it, guided to this opinion by the words of the most capable English judges of the matter I know. Then there is the Class, strong numerically & very strong by wealth and commercial position, who see little else in this difficulty but the fact that business is deranged, that the supply of cotton to their Mills is diminished and its price for the time very much enhanced, with the prospect of the Stopping of the manufacture with its consequent Suffering and other evils; a very serious & important aspect of the question, all will admit; yet it ~~it~~ is not of that importance as to demand the Sacrifice of Right, Justice, Freedom and the abandonment of all Moral Principle. This last Class is that which chiefly Controls the Press, the daily and weekly Journals, is it not? Now it is not to be denied that these Journals have for the most part spoken coldly, derisively, or adversely of our Government's War against the Slaveholding Rebellion (after a most long & patient waiting to avert if possible

the bloody issue,) and that they have spoken apologetically, and in some cases approvingly, of the Southern ~~Government~~ Movement. Indeed the very letter of Thomas Hughes which you send me (from Mr. Millar's Magazine) affirms that the spirit & tone of the British press towards us of the North has been unjust and ungenerous, and condemns it as strongly, if not as warmly, as it is condemned in America. I read last week an able article to the same effect copied into the New York Tribune from the London Star (that I think was the name, in part, of the journal); I gave the article to Mr. Garrison, for insertion in the Liberator; hence I cannot cite the title with accuracy, but I wish you would bear in mind & search the Liberator for it, and tell me what you think of it, and what is the standing & influence of the paper from which it is taken. And I may say your own letter, reciting as it does the several causes which for many years past have been ~~exerting~~ producing a pro-slavery effect upon the English mind, and admitting the pro-slavery tone of leading journals, is to some extent an admission that the American complaint of England's attitude & influence at this time are not ill-founded. Nor is the unfriendly tone, of which complaint is made, confined to the Daily and Newspaper press. Witness the London Quarterly Review's article. "Democracy on its Trial". How transparent & marked is its satisfaction in what it considers as the virtual overthrow of this Republican government, and of the failure of this Experiment in Democratic Government, carefully concealing the fact that the weapon aimed at the life of the Republic was forged by the vilest Despotism, the most absolute antagonist of all real Republicanism, now existing on the face of the earth; and this is by no means the only article of like character,